

# Alabama Certified Recovery Support Specialist Training Application

Training is open to individuals who are interested in and willing to pursue employment as a Certified Recovery Support Specialist. Priority is given to individuals already employed as peer specialists, volunteers, and those who have employment commitments pending certification.

## Qualifications to Become a Certified Recovery Support Peer Specialist:

- \*Have a minimum of two (2) years of continuous demonstrated recovery time from a substance use disorder at the date of application.
- \*Willing to self-identify as a person in recovery for the benefit of others.
- \*High school diploma or GED. *(A COPY MUST BE INCLUDED WITH APPLICATION)*
- \*Possess a valid driver's license. *(A COPY MUST BE INCLUDED WITH APPLICATION)*
- \*Two (2) written references that attest to appropriateness for certification. *(MUST BE INCLUDED WITH APPLICATION)*
- \*40 hours of ADMH approved Certified Recovery Support Specialist (CRSS) training.
- \*Pass exam with a minimum score of 70.

## Required Knowledge and Skills:

- \*An understanding of recovery from substance use disorder.
- \*Basic understanding of substance use disorder and the system of care.
- \*Basic knowledge of empowerment and the goals and objectives of the consumer movement.
- \*Ability to work with individuals or groups.
- \*Basic knowledge of consumer rights and advocacy.
- \*Ability to:
  - Communicate effectively.
  - Connect with individuals who have a substance use disorder.
  - Understand the unique experience of persons struggling with a substance use disorder.
  - Serve as a role model, showing by example that recovery is possible.
  - Relay coping skills, positive attitude skills and self-esteem.
  - Facilitate peer support/self-help groups.

**Additional Information:** ADMH will cover the cost for the training, hotel accommodations, and meals. ADMH does not reimburse for your time during the 40 hour training. Attendees must adhere to the personnel rules and guidelines of the training. In order to retain certification, Certified Recovery Support Specialists (CRSS) must earn 16 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) each calendar year following the year they pass the CRSS exam.

**NOTE: ONLY FULLY COMPLETED APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED**

## PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Recovery Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Optional: Race/Ethnicity

\_\_\_ African-American

\_\_\_ Caucasian

\_\_\_ Native American

\_\_\_ Multiracial

\_\_\_ Hispanic

\_\_\_ Latino

\_\_\_ Asian

\_\_\_ Other

Gender: \_\_\_ Male \_\_\_ Female

In addition to substance use disorder, are you also in recovery from a mental illness? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
 Have you been involved in the criminal justice system? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
 Have you served in the military? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Special populations that you have interest in working with:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Women                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Adolescent           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Occurring            | <input type="checkbox"/> Deaf/Hard of Hearing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice        | <input type="checkbox"/> College Age          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IV Substance Users      | <input type="checkbox"/> Minorities           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HIV                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Blind                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gay/Lesbian/Transgender | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____          |

***Education***

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High School:

School Name	Dates Attended	Graduated?	Date	Major

GED: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_

College/Vocational: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

***Employment***

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**Current Status:** Currently Employed? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
 Receiving Disability/SSI? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Are you now employed or have you in the past been employed as a peer specialist?  
 Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Where?: \_\_\_\_\_ When?: \_\_\_\_\_

**Current or Last Employer:**

Employer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Employment: From \_\_\_\_\_ To \_\_\_\_\_ Full-time \_\_\_ Part-time \_\_\_

Reason for leaving: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your duties:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



5. What factors are key to your continued recovery?

6. Other reasons you believe you will make a good recovery support specialist:

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**Note:**

Participation in the Alabama Certified Recovery Support Specialist Training Program requires a significant and long-term commitment of time and energy. You are expected to participate in the full five days of training, including evening sessions, complete assigned homework, and you are expected to take and pass the final exam.

Successful completion of the Certified Recovery Support Specialist training **and** exam does not guarantee you employment as a Certified Recovery Support Specialist. **Securing employment is the responsibility of each attendee.**

**Name (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applications should be submitted to:** Deborah Pennington, Peer Specialist I  
Email: [deborah.pennington@mh.alabama.gov](mailto:deborah.pennington@mh.alabama.gov) or  
Address: Alabama Department of Mental Health  
Office of Peer Services  
Attention: Deborah Pennington  
100 N. Union Street, Suite 754  
P.O. Box 301410  
Montgomery, AL 36130-1410

**For additional information contact:** Pamela Butler, Coordinator of Recovery Resources  
Phone: (334) 322-6970  
Toll-Free: 1-800-367-0955  
Fax: (334) 242-0796  
Email: [pamela.butler@mh.alabama.gov](mailto:pamela.butler@mh.alabama.gov)

**A completed application should include all of the following:**

1. Application (All four pages completed in its entirety).
  2. Two (2) written references that attest to your appropriateness for certification.
  3. Copies of a valid driver's license **and** high school diploma/GED or college transcript.
- YOU WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR TRAINING WITHOUT THESE DOCUMENTS!**